

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



UNDP

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DP/PROJECTS/2638
(RAF/75/022)
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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF
BENIN, THE GAMBIA, GHANA, GUINEA, GUINEA-BISSAU, IVORY COAST,
LIBERIA, MALI, MAURITANIA, NIGER, NIGERIA, SENEGAL, SIERRA LEONE,
TOGO AND UPPER VOLTA

Assistance to the West African Rice Development Association
(Phase II) (Supplementary Assistance) (RAF/75/022)

Report of the Administrator*

Date of present approval :	March 1979
Starting date of project activities :	July 1975 (Including previous assistance)
Planned completion date :	December 1981
To be executed by :	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Government implementing agency :	West African Rice Development Association (WARDA)
Estimated cost of assistance planned under present approval :	\$500 000
Source of UNDP financing :	Regional Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)

I. Background

1. The West African Rice Development Association (WARDA) is an inter-governmental organization now composed of fifteen States in West Africa, created for the purpose of maximizing rice production. It was set up in September 1970 and its Secretariat is located in Monrovia, Liberia.

* In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) and subsequent authorizations of the UNDP Governing Council, reports are issued seriatim on the approval of UNDP assistance of \$250,000 or more (including, if any, assistance financed by Government or by third-party cost sharing).

2. During a first phase of assistance, UNDP provided institutional support to help to establish WARDA, at a cost of approximately \$1 million (RAF/71/220). 1/ In the course of the project an FAO/UNDP review mission concluded that a Phase II project would be necessary, in order more particularly to support WARDA's Development Department, shifting the emphasis from assistance of an administrative nature to activities more directly related to increasing rice production. It was for this purpose that UNDP assistance was initially approved for the present project in July 1975. 2/

3. Since its creation, WARDA has made a remarkable contribution in the promotion of rice cultivation in the sub-region. The cultivated areas of high yielding varieties which were negligible ten years ago, are now estimated at 20% of the total rice area. Irrigated rice with total water control with a yield about three times higher, is currently practised on about 30,000 hectares. The training of almost 100 rice production specialists from 1973 to 1978 constitutes an asset to rice development in terms of transfer of technology. WARDA has also contributed to rice development by assisting in the national planning of the rice sector, through identification, preparation, pursuit of funds and management of projects through close collaboration with national authorities.

4. However, the achievement of WARDA's main objective - making West Africa self-sufficient in rice - is a much more complex and difficult task than initially planned. If total production has increased between 1960 and 1976 from 1,600,000 to 2,400,000 tons, importation has increased at an ever higher rate, due to the doubling of rice consumption per capita, escalating from around 10 kgs in 1960 to 19 kgs in 1977. Self-sufficiency therefore remains a long-term objective.

5. In order not to discontinue abruptly its assistance while WARDA itself is embarked on a wide search for financial assistance to increase its operations, UNDP decided to extend the current project phase by another year at the present scale, and during the two subsequent years in a gradually decreasing fashion. This takes also into account sharply increasing consumption demands for rice which is becoming more and more appreciated by the populations in Africa, although rice production has already doubled in the past twenty years.

II. Objectives and activities

6. The objectives of the project continue to be those assigned to WARDA by its Constitution, aiming at promoting rice production within the countries of West Africa. These include increasing the quantity of rice produced as well as improvement of quality, use of better varieties, introduction of rational production methods, implementation of phytosanitary controls, promotion of storage, and marketing of rice both within the member countries and outside.

1/ DP/SF/R.12/Add. 75/Rev. 2.

2/ DP/PROJECTS/2051.

7. For the execution of WARDA programmes, there are a Research and a Development Department, and supporting these are the Documentation, the Communications and the Statistics Divisions. UNDP's assistance will focus on supporting the Development Department, the Research Department being already substantially assisted by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), among others.

8. WARDA's Development programme is designed to assure that the results of its research programme are translated into action. UNDP's assistance will assist the Development Department strengthen its operations in promoting rice cultivation in the sub-region by helping member countries prepare and implement new rice projects or improve performance of ongoing ones; by collecting, analysing and processing data; by fostering inter-country co-ordination for in-service training and extension services.

III. Inputs

9. UNDP will continue to provide for another three years, through the Executing Agency, for the services of a team leader who will act as senior adviser and liaison officer to the Executive Secretary. So as to allow the gradual take over by WARDA itself, the other elements of UNDP assistance will be provided on a declining scale. These include the services of two agronomists, a translator, two United Nations volunteers and some consultancies.

IV. Financial data

10. The expenditure components of the planned assistance are as follows :

	<u>Previously approved</u>	<u>Present approval</u>	<u>Total approved</u>
	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>
Personnel	1 013 700	479 480	1 493 180
Subcontract	13 000	-	13 000
Training	101 380	3 000	104 380
Equipment	22 750	4 000	26 750
Miscellaneous	18 170	13 520	31 690
	<u>1 169 000</u>	<u>500 000</u>	<u>1 669 000</u>
